

BOOK NOTICE

A Lot of Insects. Entomology in a Suburban Garden. By Frank E. Lutz. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1941. 8½ × 5½ inches, xii + 304 p. illustrated. \$3.00.

This book contains a lot of interesting things about insects, things that are not commonly found in our ordinary insect books, things that Dr. Lutz did to insects, and things that he found out about them through observations and experiments. The title does not give any clue to its contents and it would be difficult to think up a short title that would do justice to its varied and entertaining components. To be sure there is an orderly table of contents but it does not reveal the field over which Dr. Lutz ranges, nor the richness which awaits the reader, who is interested in insects, whether he is a professional or amateur entomologist. The author states that his book is largely a story of American Museum of Natural History expeditions and experiments that took place for the most part in his suburban yard, however, the digressions, bits of personal history, and the author's activities, thoughts and entomological philosophy make us forget his "back yard" until he mentions it.

Dr. Lutz is not a bit interested in the destruction of insects and this may be one reason why his book is fascinating to read. However, his style is always lucid and his clear conception leads to clear expression and so the reader's interest is held throughout.

Because of Dr. Lutz's boundless curiosity about insects, we are permitted to enjoy his descriptions, to mention only a few, of butterfly migrations, migratory locusts, ant-lions, the recording of cricket chirps, the effect of supersonic waves upon crickets, the honey bee, ultraviolet and flower visiting insects, ultraviolet flowers, bumble bees, ants, wasps, termites, tiger beetles, the fire-fly's light, fruit flies, the Mendelian formulae, etc., all written from thought provoking and stimulating viewpoints. There is not a dull page in the whole volume.—H. B. W.